

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1940

Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz

February 1, 2006

An act to add Section 30237 to the Public Resources Code, relating to the environment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1940, as introduced, Koretz. Environment: marine debris.

Existing law, the California Coastal Act of 1976, provides for the maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of the marine environment, where feasible.

This bill would require the State Coastal Commission, to the extent feasible and within its existing resources to: (1) convene a multiagency task force, consisting of specified representatives from the Department of Conservation, the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the Department of Boating and Waterways, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, for the purpose of implementing a statewide marine debris reduction efforts; and (2) to undertake certain action, as specified. The bill would also make various legislative findings regarding marine debris.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the
- 2 increasing problem of marine debris is harmful to the marine

1 resources, particularly sensitive species that ingest or become
2 entangled in floating debris. The Legislature further finds that a
3 coordinated effort among state agencies is necessary to create a
4 comprehensive response to reduce the harmful effects of marine
5 debris.

6 SEC. 2. Section 30237 is added to the Public Resources
7 Code, to read:

8 30237. The commission shall, to the extent feasible and
9 within its existing resources, take actions it deems appropriate to
10 address the issue of marine debris, including, but not limited to,
11 all of the following:

12 (a) Increase public awareness of the issue of marine debris
13 through public outreach and education.

14 (b) Improve coordination and collaboration among public
15 agencies, including local governments, to reduce marine debris.

16 (c) (1) Convene a multiagency task force for the purpose of
17 implementing a statewide marine debris reduction effort.
18 Representatives on the task force shall include the Director of
19 Conservation; a member of, or the Executive Director of, the
20 State Water Resources Control Board as determined by the
21 board; a member of, or the Executive Director of, the California
22 Integrated Waste Management Board, as determined by the
23 board; the Director of Boating and Waterways; a member of, or
24 the Executive Officer of, the State Coastal Conservancy, as
25 determined by the conservancy; and a member of, or the
26 Executive Director of, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and
27 Development Commission, as determined by that commission.

28 (2) Members of the task force shall not receive per diem
29 expenses for task force related activities.

30 (3) Members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel
31 expenses for task force related activities pursuant to state policy
32 and the policy of each member's agency.

33 (d) Seek funding from public and nongovernmental sources to
34 support actions that further the purpose of this section to reduce
35 the introduction of debris into the marine environment.